MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
JUNE 21, 1961

The Commission met, pursuant to notice at 9:30 am, with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: David E. Finley
Felix W. de Weldon
Peter Hurd
Douglas W. Orr
William G. Perry
Ralph Walker
Michael Rapuano

L.R. Wilson, Secretary
C.L. Martin, Counsel
Susan Bennett, Adm. Asst.
Gilbert Halasz, Reporter

1. District of Columbia Government
Department of Licenses and Inspections

Shipstead-Luce Application S.L. 2405, Hickory House Restaurant

Having visited the premises at 309 9th Street, N.W., the members resumed their discussion of an application for a permit to relocate a neon-lighted sign on the building.

The members agreed that the sign was not attractive and did not comply with design standards established for the Shipstead-Luce Area. They felt, however, that it would not be reasonable to say that it was any more objectionable moved a distance of 3 feet into the Shipstead-Luce area than it was in its prior location. They concluded, therefore, that the Commission should not oppose the issuance of a permit to the applicant. However, it was agreed that the Commission's long-standing policy to disallow neon-lighted signs in the Shipstead-Luce area, should be maintained and recommended that the applicant be required to light the sign by some other means than neon light.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter to the District Commissioners for the Chairman's signature stating the Commission's recommendation. EXHIBIT A

2. Submissions

a. Department of Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Parks

(1) Boy Scout Memorial, Revised Design

The Commission conferred with Mr. Donald DeLue, Sculptor,

Mr. William Deacy, architect, Mr. Ellsworth H. Augustus, President, Boy Scouts of America, Inc., and representatives of the National Capital Parks, regarding a revised design of the memorial.

Mr. DeLue explained the changes in the design of the pool and the sculpture had been made to conform with the Commission's previous recommendations.

The members suggested that the bench shown on the model and drawings could be eliminated from the paved area around the pool and placed nearby on the grass. They also requested that the site plans be submitted to the Commission when they are prepared. The architect agreed to do this. Thereafter, the Commission approved the general concept of the memorial as presented in the revised design.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter stating the Commission's views. EXHIBIT B

(2) Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Revised Design

Before the discussion began the members welcomed Mrs. Nicholas Roosevelt Longworth, who had accepted the Chairman's invitation to attend the meeting and discussion with Mr. Eric Guggler, architect, of the revised design for the memorial. The members explained to Mrs. Longworth their views on the various features of the design. She agreed with their opinion that it should be kept as informal as possible and that the statue of Mr. Roosevelt should be the predominate element of the composition.

Mr. Guggler and Mr. Archibald Roosevelt joined the meeting at this point.

In their discussion with Mr. Guggler the members stressed that they liked the general concept of the proposed design, but in their opinion some of the features of the design could be changed to make the memorial less formal and to increase the predominance of the statue. There followed a general discussion of various suggested changes, i.e., elimination of the stele behind the statue, increasing the size of the statue to three times life-size, substituting trees for the boxwood shown on the model, eliminating the steps, depressing the paved area, and executing the statue in stone rather than in bronze.

Mr. Guggler replied that he felt all of these suggestions should be incorporated into another model for study and comparison with the model being shown to the Commission. He also asked that action be postponed until such time as Mr. Manship, the sculptor, returned from Europe so that the Commission's suggestions could be discussed with him. The members agreed that another model incorporating their suggested changes would be helpful and that design would have to be discussed with Mr. Manship. Consequently, no action was taken.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter to the Director, National Park Service, stating the results of the meeting. EXHIBIT C

b. District of Columbia Government
Department of Highways and Traffic

Theodore Roosevelt Bridge-Little River Span

Mr. G.I. Sawyer, Deputy Director, Department of Highways and Traffic and Mr. W.J.H. Hough, architect, explained drawings showing the design of the portion of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge between the Virginia shore and Theodore Roosevelt Island across the Little River. Mr. Hough explained that the complex of approach roads on the Virginia side necessitated a very complicated system of elevations and super-elevations in this portion of the bridge. However, he pointed out that as much as possible the architectural theme and construction details of the piers and abutements would be identical to the portion of the bridge connecting the Island with the District of Columbia shore.

It also was the opinion of both Mrs. Longworth and Mr. Roosevelt and the members of the Commission that the bridge should not provide pedestrian access to the Island.

The members complemented the architects upon their solution to a difficult architectural problem and approved the design as presented.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter setting forth the Commission's approval. EXHIBIT D

c. National Capital Planning Commission
Year 2000 Plan for Metropolitan Washington

Mr. William E. Finley, Director, and Mr. Morton Hoppenfeld, Civic Designer of the National Capital Planning Commission met with the Commission for an explanation of the Planning Commission's Year 2000 Plan.

Mr. Finley explained that the program to be shown to the members was a further development of the Planning Commission staff's proposed planning policies for the future development of the area. These policies had been discussed in preliminary form at the November, 1960 meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Hoppenfeld then narrated a program of color slides illustrating various aspects of the plan, considering, step by step, its application to the outlying metropolitan area, the District of Columbia, and the central city itself.

After the November, 1960 meeting the Commission asked that

Mr. Hoppenfeld show the members in more detail a plan for the development of the area east of the Capitol as a residential and recreational area. The presentation did not contain any new material on this subject. It was therefore decided that, although the presentation was interesting, there was little to add beyond the comments made at the November meeting.

Thereupon, at 12:55 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C. L. Martin, Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
JUNE 21, 1961

Order of Business

AM

9:30 1. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

2. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

a. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS

9:40 (1) Boy Scout Memorial, Revised Design
(Mr. Charles M. Heistand, Assistant Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America; Mr. William H. Deacy, Architect; Mr. Donald De Lue, Sculptor; Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Superintendent, National Capital Parks; Mr. William M. Haussmann, Chief, Architectural Branch, National Capital Parks)

10:15 (2) Theodore Roosevelt Memorial-Roosevelt Island
(Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Superintendent, National Capital Parks: Mr. William Haussmann, Chief, Architectural Branch, National Capital Parks; Mr. Robert C. Horne, Chief, Division of Design and Construction, NCP)

10:40 (3) Headquarters Building in West Potomac Park-Status of Design
(Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Superintendent, National Capital Parks; Mr. William M. Haussmann, Chief, Architectural Branch, National Capital Parks; Mr. Robert C. Horne, Chief, Division of Design and Construction, NCP)

10:50 (4) George Washington Memorial Parkway, Bridge Over South Access to Airport
(Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Superintendent, National Capital Parks; Mr. William M. Haussmann, Chief, Architectural Branch, National Capital Parks; Mr. Robert C. Horne, Chief, Division of Design and Construction, National Capital Parks)

b. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

11:00 Theodore Roosevelt Bridge - Little River Span
(Mr. H.L.Aitken, Director of Highways; Mr. G. I. Sawyer, Deputy Director for Engineering, Design and Research; Mr. J.J.Grady, D.C. Bridge Architect; Mr. W.J.H.Hough of Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larson; Mr. F.M.Masters of Modjeski and Masters)

c. NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

11:45 Year 2000 Plan for Washington Metropolitan Area
(Mr. William E. Finley, Director, National Capital Planning Commission; Mr. Morton Hoppenfeld, Civic Planner, NCPC)

20 June 1961

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Shipstead-Luce Act (P.L.231/71st Congress), and at the request of the District of Columbia Department of Licenses and Inspections, the Commission of Fine Arts considered, at its meeting on June 20, an application for a permit, S.L. 2405, to erect a sign on the premises at 303 9th Street, N.W. The application was filed by the Ninth Street Restaurant, Inc.

A previous application, S.L. 2381, to erect this sign, which had in fact already been erected without a permit, was returned to the Department of Licenses and Inspections on May 12, 1961 with the comment that the design of the sign was not in accordance with the design standards specified in the 1961 Building Code for the Shipstead-Luce Area.

At their meeting on June 20th, the members heard oral arguments from Mr. Robert M. Scott, attorney for the applicant, as to why the permit for the sign should be allowed, and discussed the matter with Mr. Julian P. Green, Chief of the Permit Branch, Department of Licenses and Inspections. Mr. Green informed the members that because of a technical defect, the provisions of Chapter 14 of the 1961 Building Code will not be enforcible until August 1, 1961. Thus, the basis for the Commission's previous recommendation would now be inapplicable.

The members of the Commission thereafter visited the premises to examine the sign and its relation to Federal buildings in the area. They found that the sign was a poorly-designed, projecting sign, with exposed neon lighting. It was noted that the sign in question had been moved into the Shipstead-Luce Area a distance of three feet from the premises at 305 9th Street, N.W., where it had been in use for sometime previously, but it was concluded that, while the sign was not a desirable one, it is, itself, no more objectionable when located on the premises at 303 9th Street than it was in its prior location. The Commission also concluded that the presence of other signs on the building seemed to lessen the necessity for an additional sign of undesirable character.

The Commission decided that it would raise no objection if the District officials decided to issue a permit for the sign to remain where it is now affixed. It is recommended, however, that if a permit is issued, the

EXHIBIT A

applicant should be required to illuminate the face of the sign by means of an indirect, steady white light and not by exposed neon light and that the letters on the sign be backlighted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Board of Commissioners of
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

5 July 1961

Dear Mr. Wirth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at a meeting on June 21, 1961, considered further developments in the design of the Boy Scout Memorial, for a site on the east-west axis of the Ellipse, west of 15th Street, Northwest. Mr. William H. Deacy, the architect, and the sculptor, Mr. Donald De Lue, presented scale models of the general plan and the sculptural group, which showed revisions to the plan and the sculpture recommended by the members at their regular meeting on April 19, and at a special meeting with Mr. Walker and Mr. Nagueno on May 5 at the sculptor's studio in New York City.

The members thought that the design of the pool and the placement of the sculpture was now suitable for the site and they approved the design in principle as presented. They suggested, however, that the commemorative marble bench shown on the model should be located outside the paved area around the pool and that possibly more benches could be provided. They also invited the architect and the sculptor to return with further developments of the plan and the sculpture as they were completed.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on September 20, and time will be reserved for consideration of this project at that time if desired.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Conrad Wirth
Director, National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

cc-Secretary of the Interior
Superintendent, National Capital Parks

EXHIBIT B

30 June 1961

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your letter of June 26th. The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were delighted to have you and Mrs. Longworth at our meeting on June 21st when we saw the new design for the memorial to your father to be placed on Theodore Roosevelt Island.

As you know, the members of the Commission liked the concept of the design and are looking forward to discussing it with the sculptor, Mr. Manship, when he returns from Europe.

I like your idea that the quotations on the small stelae should express your father's character, giving some idea of his versatility and the many interests which he had. I hope you and your sisters will suggest quotations which you think suitable and give these to Mr. Fugler and Mr. Manship. I am sure the Commission would agree with you as regards the subject matter chosen. Our principal responsibility concerns the design of the stelae and the monument, itself.

When Mr. Manship returns from Europe and the design has progressed further, we hope you and your sisters will meet with us again and talk about the matter further.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Archibald Roosevelt
Roosevelt and Cross
40 Wall Street
New York 5, New York

cc-Mrs. Longworth
Mrs. Richard Derby

EXHIBIT C

5 July 1961

Dear General Clarke:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on June 21, considered the design of the Little River Span of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, which will traverse the southern tip of Roosevelt Island.

The Commission was honored in having the presence of two of the surviving children of President Theodore Roosevelt, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth and Mr. Archibald Roosevelt, who sat with the members as the architect of the bridge, Mr. William Hough described the design of the piers and girders that support the roadway. The members considered that the architectural treatment of the Little River Span would be harmonious with the Potomac River Span, as would the shorter masonry section that carries the roadway over Roosevelt Island, and they approved the design as presented.

In reviewing the design, the members noted with great satisfaction that the lowness of the entire bridge was such that their idea of having it appear to be two shorter bridges, instead of one long bridge, as originally authorized, would be achieved. They expressed further satisfaction that the Theodore Roosevelt Association had made it possible to move the site northward further away from the Memorial Bridge and the Lincoln Memorial.

In approving the design of the final span of the bridge, the members asked me to reiterate their belief that the bridge should have been placed elsewhere, ~~where~~ the destruction of parklands that surround some of our most important monuments would not have been required for approach roads, and where one of the most scenic landscapes would have remained unbroken.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brig. Gen. F.J. Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

EXHIBIT 10